

Nicaragua calls for U.N. meeting

UNITED NATIONS (A.P.) — Nicaragua called Friday for an urgent meeting of the U.N. Security Council, saying that there was "increasing danger" of U.S. military intervention in Central America. Daniel Ortega Saavedra, head of the Sandinista government in Managua, said in a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar that he would come to New York to personally present Nicaragua's case to the 15-nation council. Mr. Ortega said he was sure the council "will adopt whatever measures are necessary to contain the conflagration which becomes imminent today as a result of this (U.S.) decision to intervene in Central America."

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Village Leagues 'work for Israel'

BEIRUT (R) — A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader said Friday the Village Leagues Israel has tried to set up on the West Bank were working for Israeli intelligence. Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad), an aide to PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, said: "Our people and our history will never have mercy on those who get involved in these leagues. Everyone knows they form a tool for enemy intelligence services." Many members of the Israeli-backed leagues have resigned following a Jordanian government warning to try for treason anyone who joins. The treason charge carries a possible death sentence. Israel has encouraged formation of five leagues, drawn from 70 villages, as an alternative to the stand taken by the mayors of large West Bank towns, many of whom support the PLO.

Arab League group asks for document

TUNIS (R) — A special Arab League committee meeting here asked Lebanon and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Friday night to prepare a joint document on a global Arab strategy for southern Lebanon. The seven-member committee was set up at an Arab summit meeting in the Moroccan city of Fez in November to "deal with Zionist aggressions against southern Lebanon." According to Arab diplomatic sources, the PLO submitted a document to the committee and Jordan and Iraq proposed reconciling with a Lebanese working paper. The sources said the Lebanese document specifically requested that the PLO commandos withdraw from southern Lebanon to prevent Israeli air strikes in retaliation for Palestinian commando activities. The committee consists of Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Lebanon, Syria and the PLO, and is chaired by Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi.

Soviet hero dies

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet war hero Marshal Vasily Chuykov, who defended Stalingrad against Hitler's forces and later took the German surrender, has died at the age of 82. Soviet officials said Friday. Marshal Chuykov, one of the most highly-decorated Soviet World War II military leaders, died on Thursday after a long illness. During the battle of Stalingrad, Marshal Chuykov was said to have told former Kremlin leader Nikita Khrushchev, then a political commissar, that his forces would hold the city or die there. After the war Marshal Chuykov was first deputy commander and then commander-in-chief of Soviet forces in Germany until 1953.

Algerian elected for World Court

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Algerian U.N. representative Mohammad Bedjaoui, who was involved in efforts to free the American hostages in Iran, was Friday elected a judge of the World Court at The Hague. The 52-year-old diplomat and jurist will serve until Feb. 5, 1988, completing the nine-year term of Judge Abdullah Al Erani of Egypt who died last December. The only other candidate in Friday's election, held concurrently in the Security Council and the General Assembly, was Egyptian U.N. representative Ahmad Esmat Abdul Meguid.

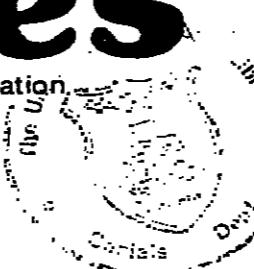
Reagan support is eroding'

WASHINGTON (A.P.) — Opinion analyst Louis Harris told American businessmen Friday that public support for President Reagan's economic programme is eroding rapidly, and the president is on something of a collision course with the prevailing mood of American public opinion" on the issue of defence spending. Speaking to a meeting of the National Association Manufacturers, Mr. Harris said his surveys also indicate the Reagan's personal popularity is dropping. "He's got a negative rating at last count that is dropped from 52-47 per cent positive in January to the latest ones that is 44-56 negative," Mr. Harris told the breakfast session. Reagan defends policies, page 5

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جريدة تابعه لمؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية "الراي"



U.S. says Israeli move unfortunate

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. State Department Friday described as unfortunate Israel's dismissal of the mayor and town council of Al Birsh in the occupied West Bank. The State Department said free elections for a self-governing authority, as called for in the Camp David peace framework, were the best way to assure politically responsive representation of Arabs in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. "It is always unfortunate when elected officials are no longer able to serve their constituents," Spokesman Dean Fischer said in response to questions. "We remain convinced that the best way to assure the politically responsive representation of the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza is through the free election of a self-governing authority to replace the existing military government," he said.

King: U.S. plays role of a postman

NEW YORK (A.P.) — His Majesty King Hussein says the Middle East is approaching the brink of war because of dangerous rifts among Arab nations and Israel's continued occupation of the West Bank, the New York Times reported Friday.

In an interview in Amman, King Hussein told the Times: "We are passing through one of the most critical stages we have witnessed in our time. It is far more serious than it has ever been."

King Hussein said the foreign policy of the United States has "eroded to the point where it has now adopted the role of a pos-

tman, a carrier of messages."

The King said the United States should "blow the dust from all its past commitments and re-examine them." Opening talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation would be a step in the right direction, he said.

The Times reported that Jordanian officials and Western diplomats say King Hussein is increasingly worried about Israel's hard-line policies and the radicalism of other Arab states.

Frustration over failure to solve the Palestinian issue could only make these problems worse, the King told the Times.

Habib says truce fragile

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Special Mideast envoy Philip Habib says the ceasefire in Lebanon must be maintained and that all parties there realise the grave implications of a major breakdown in that agreement.

Ambassador Habib spoke to reporters on Thursday following a meeting with President Reagan. He had just returned from a trip to Lebanon, Israel, Jordan, Syria and Saudi Arabia.

The presidential envoy said President Reagan had sent him to the Mideast to strengthen the cessation of hostilities which the United States helped bring about last July. He said the president had also instructed him to look into the Lebanese situation itself.

Mr. Habib said he reported to the president that the situation could "still be described as fragile," despite the fact that ceasefire violations have been of minor significance compared with the situation that existed last spring.

"Any move which would lead to a breakdown of the ceasefire must be avoided," Mr. Habib said, adding that "military actions would serve no useful purpose and would

be extremely damaging to the peace process in the Middle East."

Mr. Habib said the Israelis had told him that they "will not be the first to attack." And, he said, the Lebanese indicated they "wished to abide by the ceasefire." As for the Palestinians in southern Lebanon, Mr. Habib said he hopes "nothing occurs which would provoke any provocative action."

The special envoy said his trip had underlined the need to maintain the ceasefire "which has unquestionably saved many lives."

As for the internal Lebanese situation, Mr. Habib said he had made it clear during his trip that the United States supports an "independent, united, integral Lebanon, sovereign within its internationally recognised borders."

He said the expansion of the United Nations forces will stabilise the situation in the southern part of the country.

"We continue to support efforts towards a political consensus and national reconciliation within Lebanon and have sought to enlist the support of Arab states for this process," Habib said.

PLO rejects U.S. views

BEIRUT (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) rejected Friday an American interpretation of its ceasefire with Israel and reserved the right to attack Israel from any direction other than across the Lebanese border.

U.S. State Department Spokesman Dean Fischer said Thursday Washington understood that any hostile action originating from Lebanon would constitute a violation of the eight-month-old

ceasefire.

But Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad), chief military aide to PLO leader Yasser Arafat, told a Beirut news conference: "What Mr. Fischer said is far from the truth—we made no agreement with the United States."

The PLO official said the ceasefire did not rule out commando activities inside Israel or operations from any direction we see fit other than across the Lebanese border."

OPEC agrees on ceiling of 18m barrels a day

VIENNA (R) — OPEC oil ministers agreed Friday to set a ceiling of 18 million barrels a day on oil production and to maintain the organisation's benchmark price at \$34 a barrel, Saudi Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani said.

"We have reached agreement on a ceiling of 18 million," he told reporters.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) aimed at fixing production quotas to reduce the present glut of oil on the world market and defend prices.

Sheikh Yamani spoke to reporters before the talks broke up and was not immediately clear what the ministers had already fixed individual quotas within the new ceiling, which is only a few hundred thousand barrels per day below current OPEC production.

Oil company experts have been

saying that OPEC would need to slash production to around 16 million barrels daily to be certain of halting the slide in free market oil prices.

But if all 13 members showed

sufficient discipline and did not try to undercut one another, it might be able to ride out the glut at around 18 million barrels at least until the summer, they said.

The new level compares with an OPEC output of nearly 32 million barrels a day in 1979.

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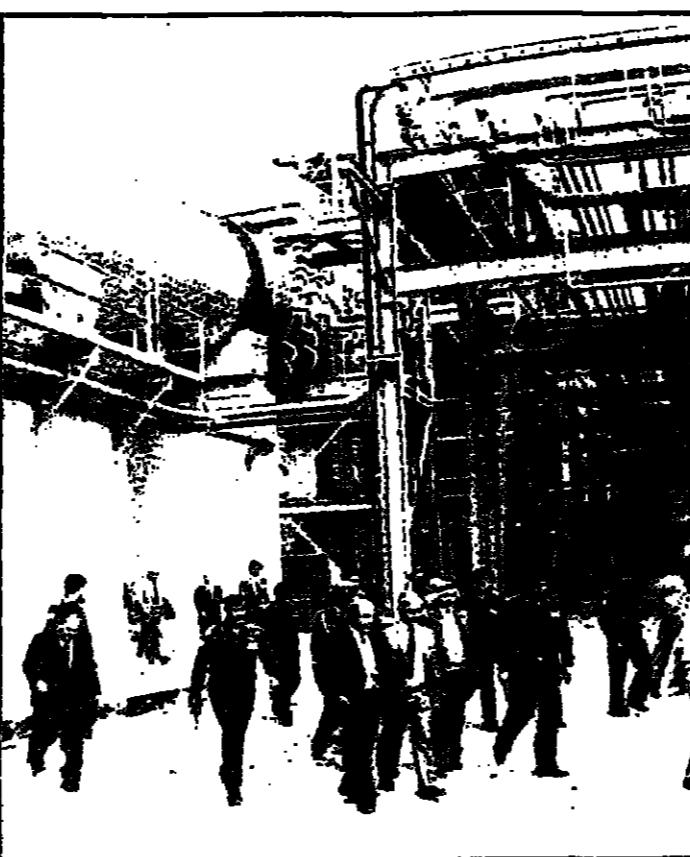
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prices.

They added that the matter was likely to be discussed informally at a meeting of EEC foreign ministers in Brussels next week, although a formal announcement of the visits probably would not come until after the Israeli withdrawal, due before April 26.

The EEC formulated a statement on the Middle

East in Venice in 1980, when it called for the invitation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in peace talks.



His Majesty King Hussein, accompanied by Arab Potash Company Director-General Ali Khasawneh (to the King's right), high officials, military officers and dignitaries, tours the refinery of the Arab potash project which he inaugurated Thursday (See story on page 3—photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Iraqi forces launch fresh attacks in Khuzestan

BEIRUT (R) — Iraq launched a large-scale attack Friday in the Ahwaz-Susanger area of Iran's Khuzestan Province, forcing the Iranians to retreat, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said.

INA quoted a military spokesman as saying Iraqi troops were still advancing and casualty details would be released later.

In the same area, Iraqi soldiers shot down an Iranian plane, and Iraqi aircraft attacked Iranian armour and returned safely to base, INA said.

Iran lost 48 men killed and two vehicles destroyed in other zones on Thursday night and Friday, while Iraq lost nine men killed, INA added.

The war completes its 18th month next Monday.

In the meantime, an Iranian delegation will visit Turkey next week to help make transit arrangements for 30,000 family members who want to visit Iranian prisoners of war in Iraq, a Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman in Ankara said Friday.

The spokesman said the International Committee of the Red Cross was arranging the transfer of relatives through Ankara at IRAN'S request.

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Iran and Iraq, will be used as a transit point for family visits because the Iran-Iraq border itself is a war zone.

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NATIONAL

Committee promotes U.S. understanding of Islam

Islam Heritage exhibition panel's most ambitious cultural project

HOUSTON, Texas — The Heritage of Islam exhibition, which had its United States premiere at the Houston Museum of Natural Science on March 10, is an amalgamation of arts, architecture, science and technology.

The exhibition covers 1,400 years of Islamic history, and spans the Muslim World from Morocco to sub-Saharan Africa, through the Middle East, South Asia and the Far East. The works of art run the gamut from a primitive eighth-century stucco bust to an ultramodern ceramic-and-mirror wall hanging.

There are colourful tapestries, both ancient and modern, with designs that in the viewer's eye seem to extend to infinity. There are ancient copies of the Koran, ranging from tiny paper books to huge, leather-bound and gold-embossed volumes of the sacred text.

The scientific instruments show an amazing knowledge, from far in the past, of mathematics, astronomy and medicine. The architecture of Islam is shown in models and photographs, including a slide show. A film, "The Peoples of Islam," is included in the exhibition.

There are about 250 objects in the Heritage of Islam display, which is the first exhibition to be shown in the Natural Science Museum's recently completed new wing.

Her Majesty Queen Noor, who takes an active interest in environmental conservation and the preservation of historic sites in Jordan, presided at opening ceremonies for the exhibition. The exhibition was organised by the Washington-based Islam Centennial Fourteen, and according to Ambassador William R. Crawford, executive director of Islam Centennial Fourteen, Queen Noor was "pledged to participate in this important major exhibition." Mr. Crawford is a former U.S. ambassador to the Yemeni Arab Republic.

"Her Majesty had been pleased by what she had heard about the Heritage of Islam exhibition and our committee's efforts to bring Americans information on the depth of Muslim culture and its contribution to Western civilisation," Mr. Crawford said.

The exhibition will be open to the public in Houston through May 30. Afterwards it will be on display in the United States in San Francisco, New York and Washington, and in Canada at Toronto. Noting that most travelling exhibitions in the United States open

either in an East or a West Coast city, Mr. Crawford said that "we felt that the significance of the exhibit and the close ties in Houston with the Muslim nations of Africa, the Middle East, and the Far East indicated breaking the usual opening city pattern."

At a press preview of the exhibition on March 9, Mr. Crawford described the exhibition as "the broadest collection of Islamic art, the most representative ever brought together" in the United States. Although it is the most ambitious, it is only part of a long list of educational programme produced by Islam Centennial Fourteen. Mr. Crawford described the exhibition and the entire educational programme as a way to enable Americans "to better understand the contemporary Muslim World, in which we must find a common interest and pursue those common interests over time."

Mr. Crawford explained to reporters that planning for the educational programme began about five years ago, with a discussion among professors in the Washington area, who were concerned about tensions that seemed to be building up between the United States and the Muslim World. Since the fourteenth centennial of the founding of Islam was approaching, Mr. Crawford said, in 1979 a committee was formed in the United States to honour the fourteenth centennial.

The committee has a nation-wide membership in the United States, he said, with people from all walks of life, all religions, all faiths and all races, "attesting to a very real concern that Americans have for a better understanding, better relations with the Muslim World."

"There is also an academic committee composed of 80 persons from the university world," Mr. Crawford told the reporters. He said this academic committee is composed of "the heads of all principal university training centres for the Middle East, Africa, South Asia and Far Eastern studies."

He said the programme is designed "to bring to America a better understanding of a vital part of the world, not just the Middle Eastern world, but a huge swath of the world's territory, about 800 million people in 72 nations."

--USICA

Deck of Cards turns up some winners

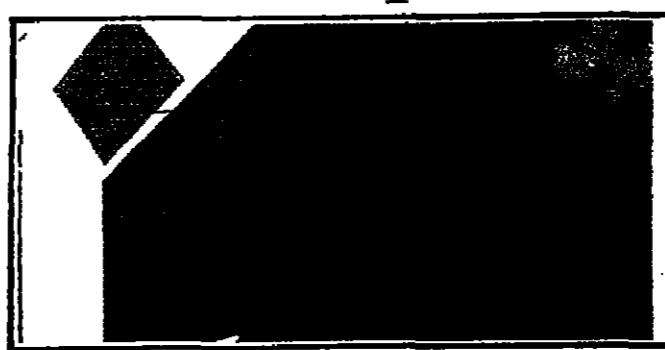
By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

IMAGINE A PACK of playing cards with each individual card designed by a different artist, in his or her own particular style. Once you have conceived the diversity, the colourfulness and the interest this simple idea could generate, you have in essence the exhibition now on show at the British Council.

The Deck of Cards project was kicked off in 1976, when 54 leading British artists were commissioned, each to produce a picture representing a different card from a conventional pack of cards. In media as wide-ranging as the styles employed, artists of such calibre as David Hockney, Patrick Caulfield and John Hoyland produced their own characteristic versions of the chosen cards, with the end result that the exhibition became almost a survey of recent British painting.

It is the individual interpretations of the information given on the cards that provide one of the most interesting aspects of the exhibition. Sometimes this interpretation is thoroughly predictable. Suzy Malin's depiction of two young lovers, in bed together with the symbol of the two of hearts inscribed on the corners of their pillows; and Julian Cooper's water-colour of two real spades in a wet and rocky garden, both fall into this category, although their technical virtuosity redeems these works.

The depiction of the queens of



The six of clubs: Silkscreen by Patrick Heron

all suits was also disappointingly predictable. This was perhaps because, as far as possible, the artists were commissioned to paint the cards which were most appropriate to their own styles. Thus the figurative artists were given the kings, queens and jacks, while the abstract artists were relegated to the lower divisions.

With this in mind, it would have been difficult to have commissioned any other artist but Allen Jones — famous for his portrayal of the improbably perfect proportions of the typical female stereotype — to paint the queen of clubs. As if computer programmed, Jones came up with a black and white photograph of the "boudoir queen" faithfully depicted in hacked leather, with compulsory thigh-length boots and whip.

Many of the other paintings are not so much predictable as just less inspired. Amply compensating for them, however, are the many pieces that are not only inspired but original and cleverly

card into a field of subtle colour. Collage was another popular way of interpreting the cards. Both Stephen Buckley and Harry Thubron used thick wooden bases, and the former completed his by adding the figure eight enclosed by a diamond shape in thick impasto. The latter imprisoned his, after covering it with a collage of paper eight and club symbols in a glass-fronted box, Joseph Cornell style.

Ian Breakwell tried a more conceptual approach by writing his theory on a photograph that caught the essence of his idea. Bill Jackie's black and white water-colour of flimsy flowers striped by sunlight included, almost incidentally, a diamond-gridded bowl, that indicated the card's suit and number the card is.

Simplicity is also the hallmark of the pieces by Terry Frost and Patrick Heron. The former, with Calder-like colours and spontaneity, has arranged nine brightly hued spade symbols cut out of paper on a large uncoloured version of the same shape, while Heron has silkscreened his idea of the six of clubs in equally strong and beautiful colours.

Slightly more complex than these are the abstract versions of the three of hearts by John Hoyland — where the number of the card is denoted by thick stripes of orange, dark green and crimson, which merge with the red, almost heart-shaped background — and the four of diamonds by Ian Stephenson, whose characteristic use of tiny dots of colour turns the

deck into a knave with comic-strip fun.

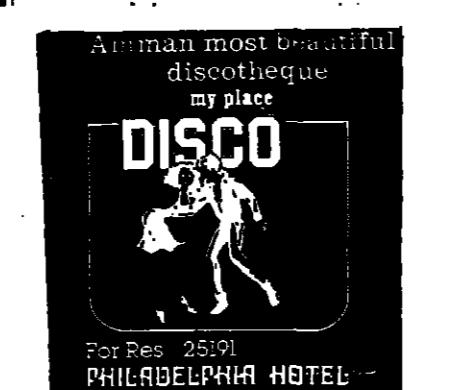
The consistently high quality of production, the variety of media and styles and the originality of some of the ideas make this exhibition a thought-provoking and enjoyable event. Actual packs of playing cards produced from the collection are on sale until the exhibition ends on March 22.

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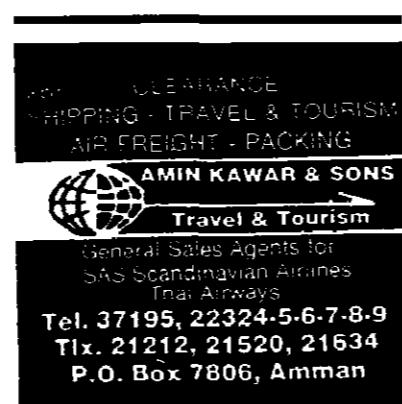
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NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Doctors look at paediatrics

AMMAN (Petra) — The Association of General Practitioners in Jordan (AGP) organised its second medical day, called "The Child's Day" at the Professional Associations Complex here Friday. The day-long programme included 14 lectures on children's illnesses and ways to prevent them. They also dealt with modern medical sciences and paediatric diagnosis and treatment. Taking part in the programme, organised in cooperation with Dar Al Dawa pharmaceutical firm, were a large number of Jordanian physicians representing various specialisations and organisations. An AGP announcement said similar programmes will be organised once every two months.

Top artists' work goes on display

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Mayor Isam Al Ajlouni opened at the Amman Marriott Hotel Friday the Exhibition of Originals, containing paintings by a number of world-famous artists. The four-day exhibition, displaying 100 paintings by renowned artists, was organised by Dr. Mary Ayyoub. The opening ceremony was attended by several guests and art lovers.

Quantitative planning seminar set today

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-week seminar on quantitative methods in modern management will open here on Saturday. Twenty-two participants representing industrial and economic organisations will examine quantitative methods and their importance in planning and implementing projects, as well as means of developing organisations' and companies' methods of planning. The seminar will be held at the Institute of Public Administration.

Abu Nowar to Gulf tourney

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Culture and Youth Ma'an Abu Nowar left for the United Arab Emirates on Thursday. Mr. Abu Nowar will attend the opening of the sixth Arabian Gulf football tournament which will be held in Abu Dhabi for 16 days starting March 19.

Sheraton gets new manager

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman Sheraton Palace Hotel has announced the appointment of a new general manager for the hotel, Mr. Erhard Noreisch. Mr. Noreisch will replace Mr. Klaus Guny, who has served as the hotel's general manager since its opening last November.

Delegate chosen for Arab youth meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the fourth meeting of the Arab committee charged with organising youth activities. The meeting will be held in public at the Arab League headquarters in Tunis on April 24. Balqa Governorate Education Director Taysir Arafa will represent Jordan at the meeting.

Jordanian goes to scouting seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian boy scouts and girl guides federation will take part in a seminar for scouts and guides leaders that will open in Morocco Saturday. Participants in the week-long seminar, organised by the Arab Scouting Committee, will discuss methods of training scouts and boosting the Arab scout movement's activities. Mr. Khalil Al Bashir, a member of the Jordanian scouts federation, is attending the seminar.

AOAS board meeting on plans starts today

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Organisation of Administrative Sciences (AOAS) executive board will open its 29th meeting in Amman on Saturday. The board will discuss at its meeting, expected to last several days, AOAS' achievements in the past year and its fiscal budget, and will resume discussion of amendments to the organisation's bylaws. AOAS Director Abdullah Al Zirbi has said.

He added that the amendments were suggested at a board meeting which was held at Susa in Tunisia last January. The purpose by introducing the amendments is to develop AOAS in a manner that will streamline the organisation's role in developing administration systems in the Arab World, he said.

JEA completes Rashadiyah link

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) says it has completed a project for linking the Rashadiyah transformer station with that of Ma'an in southern Jordan.

**No economic conference set — Qaddouri**

AMMAN (J.T.) — Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Secretary General Fakhri Qaddouri was quoted Friday as denying CEAU knowledge of any Arab economic conference to be held in the summer, Al Ra'i newspaper reported on Friday.

Dr. Qaddouri stressed, according to the paper, that efforts are being exerted to hold a pan-Arab conference on the strategy of joint Arab economic work. He added that this conference will include a body of Arab economists from the general secretariats of the Arab League, the CEAU and the Arab Economists Union.

Crown Prince celebrates birthday today



AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan celebrates his 36th birthday anniversary on Saturday.

U.S. Arab visitors affirm support for Jordan policy

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation representing the American Federation of Ramallah, Palestine Friday issued a statement at the end of its visit to Jordan voicing appreciation to His Majesty King Hussein, the government and the Jordanian people for the hospitality accorded to its members.

"We strongly support the Jordanian national stand vis à vis the West Bank collaborators with the Israeli enemy, those who support the Israeli-sponsored Village Leagues, and we do support Jordan's cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organisation and their joint endeavours aimed at regaining usurped Palestinian territory," the statement said.

It added that the "delegation members also support Jordan's

stand with regard to Arab national issues, particularly its total support for Iraq in its just war against Iran to regain its legitimate rights."

"We also praise Jordan's information activity in the United States and take pride in the recent message addressed to the American people by King Hussein and delivered at Georgetown University in Washington by Queen Noor," the statement said.

It also expressed deep appreciation to the Ministry of Information, Amman Municipality, Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, the Popular Committee for Supporting Iraq and all quarters with which the delegation members had had contact, for their hospitality and cooperation with the delegation.

Hotel, charity event opened

AMMAN (Petra) — His Highness Prince Mohammad, chairman of the Higher Tourism Committee, formally opened the Crown Hotel here Thursday. Later, accompanied by Princess Taghrid, Prince Mohammad toured the hotel's various sections.

The opening ceremony was attended by several cabinet members and under-secretaries, as well as members of the diplomatic corps in Jordan.

Also Thursday, Prince Mohammad and Princess Taghrid opened at the Aruman Marriott Hotel a charitable fund-raising event organised by the Nahda Charitable Society of Jordanian Women. Proceeds of the event benefited the society's philanthropic programmes.

Austrian envoy delivers Kreisky's message

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan received in his office Thursday Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky's personal representative, Minister of State Hans Seidel. Crown Prince Hassan took receipt in the meeting of a

message from Dr. Kreisky. Dr. Seidel arrived in Jordan Wednesday evening to attend the Arab potash project's inauguration ceremony Thursday at Ghor Al Safi.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Exhibitions

* Olivewood carvings and flower arrangements by Ibrahim Arar, at San Rock Hotel. Ends today.

* Twenty-five Years of French Rock, at the French Cultural Centre.

* A Deck of Cards, paintings on the theme of playing cards by contemporary British artists, at the British Council.

* An Exhibition of Scandinavian Crafts and Design, at the Alia Art Gallery.

Film

* Le Diable Dans le Boîte, colour film subtitled in Arabic, at the French Cultural Centre at 7:30 p.m.

Lecture

* The 1981 Wadi Ziglab Survey: Method, Rationale, Results, by Dr. Ted Banning, at the American Centre of Oriental Research at 6:30 p.m.

Today's weather

The weather will be relatively warm, with light and variable winds, becoming northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

	Overnight low	Daytime high
Amman	8	17
Aqaba	12	25
Deserts	6	18
Jordan Valley	11	24

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 14, Aqaba 22. Humidity readings: Amman 54 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

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King Hussein speaks at the opening of the potash project Thursday. In the front row of dignitaries at the ceremony are Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Mudar Badran (Petra photo)

APC's Dead Sea plant inaugurated**King warns against Israeli canal's threat to security**

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

GHOR AL SAFI — His Majesty King Hussein accused Israel Thursday of "threatening the security and progress" of the Middle East and obstructing the establishment of regional "justice, peace and stability."

Inaugurating the Arab Potash Company's (APC's) \$465.8 million potash refinery at the southern tip of the Dead Sea—180 kilometres south of Amman—King Hussein said Israel's plan to dig a canal between the Mediterranean and the lifeless body of water was a flagrant aggression against our land, rights and spiritual values, as well as international laws and conventions."

The projected Israeli "Med-Dead" Canal would "inflict great damage on our rights and national wealth" when the waters of the Mediterranean would "submerge many of our economic projects and remains of past civilisations," he added.

King Hussein charged that the Israeli canal would pose "threats to the security and stability of Palestine, Jordan and all the neighbouring Arab countries" since the Mediterranean waters, in their steep downhill run to the lowest lake on earth, would be used "to cool nuclear installations, whose aim is evil and aggression."

Turning to the large crowd of foreigners attending the inauguration—including Prince Michael of Kent and Austrian Minister of State Hans Seidel—King Hussein appealed to "your governments and peoples, who believe in peace and justice, to stop Israel from implementing its new aggressive project, which carries evil and danger to us, to the people of Palestine and to our rights and lands."

"Please contemplate the supreme objectives of this project and the benefits that will accrue from it towards progress and peace to us and to all mankind, and (compare the results with) Israel's project which aims at threatening security and progress in our area and obstructing justice, peace and stability in this vital part of the world," he said.

The APC's potash refinery, which is to start commercial production in September, is expected to earn Jordan \$200 million a year when fully operational. It is the first of a series of projects to exploit the Dead Sea's mineral content. To follow are extraction processes for table salt, magnesium, bromine and potassium sulphate.

In addition to the Austrian minister and the British nobleman, the ceremony was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, National Consultative Council President Ahmad Al Tarawneh, Chief of the Royal Court Ahmad Al Lawzi, Court Minister Amer Khammash, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid,

This canal between the two seas will do our rights and national wealth great damage as a result of the influx of the waters of the Mediterranean to the Dead Sea, which will submerge remains of civilisations and many projects.

The canal itself is an aggression on the occupied Palestinian Arab lands, causing geographical and ethnic changes that are unjust and contrary to all laws.

This canal also will be the sou-

Israel recruits local firms for Med-Dead job

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government has received a complete report on the Israeli plans and programmes to dig a canal linking the Mediterranean with the Dead Sea, Al Ra'i newspaper reported on Friday.

The report said that Israel will seek the services of local companies to carry out the project because it has failed to interest foreign companies in the job, the paper added. It said that according to the Israeli plans, the canal will take 18 months to finish.

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Destruction ahead

IT WAS, perhaps, inevitable that the Israeli government would start dissolving the elected municipal councils in the Palestinian cities of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The trend of the past several years has revealed a clear desire by Israel to take control of the human and physical resources of the occupied areas as a first step towards ultimate total Israeli sovereignty in those areas. The annexation of the greater Jerusalem area and the application of Israeli law to the Golan Heights were two of the more blunt steps in this direction. The dissolution of the Bireh town council is another, followed by the appointment of Israelis to administer the town's activities.

It is obvious, and has been for many years for anybody who cared to look under the surface, that these kinds of illegal and provocative actions by Israel have taken place because, in the final analysis, Israel's supporters and financiers in Washington have never indicated in a practical and forceful manner that they object to such moves. Words alone mean nothing to the Israelis, and the double irony that both the United States and the Arabs have responded to every new Israeli provocation by a barrage of words simply assures new and worse Israeli moves in the future. One still looks to the American leadership for a gesture, for an honest indication that it is not, as we strongly suspect, a docile puppet that dances to Israel's tune. The catalogue of Israeli excesses is matched by, and largely a function of, the parallel catalogue of American acquiescence and Arab inaction. There is no better recipe for turmoil, destruction and warfare in the future than this combination of American-financed Israeli provocation and a frozen Arab World on the other side.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Arab funds in Arab land

AL RA'I: A new achievement in industrialisation began in Jordan on Thursday when His Majesty King Hussein inaugurated the potash project. This means that the 1990's will witness the important economic results of this project.

It is needless to say that this achievement is the result of the economic and industrial ambition established by the leader of the country. This project will be one of the pillars of Arab economic strength and an example of what Arab cooperation and honest cooperation among friends can lead to.

The King's speech inaugurating the potash project also inaugurated a new epoch of the civilisation of our active and productive Jordanian society which stresses that any achievement accomplished by Jordan is a pillar that supports Arab strength. There is no doubt that the comparison the King made between the cultural significance of the potash project and the aggressive nature of the Med-Dead canal which Israel intends to build is a new reminder to the world that the Israeli project will jeopardise the peace and security of the region because it violates Jordan's sovereignty and escalates the Israeli aggression on the Palestinian people. This danger dictates on the international community the responsibility of preventing Israel from carrying out its devilish project.

It is clear that the Med-Dead canal project is part of the Israeli acts of aggression aimed at stepping up the pressure on our people in the occupied lands in order to destroy their national establishments. A recent example of this Israeli pressure is the Israeli decision to dissolve Al Birah municipal council.

Development v destruction

AL DUSTOUR: His Majesty King Hussein opened on Thursday the potash project which represents a landmark in our national economy. The potash project will boost Jordan's prosperity and enhance its self-sufficiency. This new project speaks of the triumph of Jordan's will on the challenges of technological backwardness and lack of funds. We are very proud because Jordan has been able to accomplish this project despite scarcity of resources. King Hussein said the project was a new beginning towards the establishment of our future and our advanced and modern community.

The accomplishment of this project gives evidence to the good results of Arab cooperation and its ability to establish great projects which bring prosperity to the Arab people. It also highlights the good results of investing Arab funds in the development of the Arab Homeland.

In his opening speech, King Hussein brought to the world's attention the grave dangers which may result from Israel's intention to dig the Med-Dead canal. He explained that this canal would endanger peace and security in the region because it would be an encroachment on the rights of Jordan and Palestine and because it would destroy life and development projects in the Jordan Valley. The King called on all states to do their best in order to prevent Israel from carrying out this criminal project.

King Hussein's call serves as a clear comparison between Jordan's role in construction and development and Israel's bellicose practices aimed at destroying life and obstructing development projects in the region.

Too much yet too little

By Christopher Hanson

Reuter

WASHINGTON — U.S. officials are busy defending President Reagan's military budget against charges that it is too big and from others that it is too small.

Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger and other civilian leaders in the Pentagon have been placed in a curiously contradictory position while advocating the ambitious \$1.600 billion, five-year spending package.

They have found themselves arguing with sceptical members of Congress, sometimes in the same hearing, that a Soviet threat, as perceived here, is so great it can scarcely be exaggerated but also that it has been overblown by top U.S. military officers.

With some congressional critics demanding cuts to offset record high federal spending deficits, Mr. Weinberger has said repeatedly that meeting the Soviet threat is an urgent task that must be divorced from domestic politics.

He is even seeking to declassify some of the latest intelligence about Kremlin weapons to help Congressmen convince voters of

the need to spend more on the military.

At the same time, Mr. Weinberger has found himself rebuffing a grim appraisal by the joint chief of staff who hold that the Reagan budget is inadequate to meet the Soviet challenge.

According to a Pentagon planning document, the military chiefs think an additional \$750 billion is needed to handle a major war with the Soviet Union.

Mr. Weinberger last week dismissed the document as a "military wish list."

But Army Chief of Staff General Edward Meyer told a Senate hearing: "I don't consider it a wish list if you believe the defence of the nation is important." Budget restraints made it risky to embark on the defence of areas such as the Gulf in addition to Western Europe, he said.

Military planners for each of the services echoed General Meyer's concern.

They said Mr. Reagan's strategy guidelines required more army divisions and naval battle groups and much more than the 40 tactical jet fighter wings provided for by the administration.

A major reason for differences between the military and Mr. Weinberger is that he must also deal with political realities. His task is to persuade Congress to approve as much of the Pentagon budget request as possible at a time when it is also being asked to make further painful cuts in domestic spending.

Mr. Weinberger says the budget has been subjected to thorough scrutiny at the Pentagon and reflects the precise amount needed to meet the threat. He has tried to bolster his argument by declassifying intelligence showing that Moscow has developed a new nuclear bomber capable of hitting the United States.

When a congress made public a secret Pentagon assessment that the Kremlin would be able to deploy laser weapons in space next year, Mr. Weinberger leapt at the opportunity. Abandoning his usual practice of decrying leaked information, he said the disclosure was further evidence that the budget must be approved intact.

Mr. Weinberger points to the Polish crisis in raising the prospect of countering a Soviet thrust anywhere in the world.

They sympathise with the idea of a new global strategy under which the U.S. would regard itself as an island nation and concentrate on building its sea power.

Other Pentagon officials have said a conventional war might last more than six months and could involve major fighting not only in central Europe but in Norway, Iceland, the Gulf, the Caribbean, the Atlantic Ocean, and possibly East Asia. The cost of preparing to carry out such commitments has led some in Congress to question Mr. Reagan's military policy.

"We are not going to get more defence resources in the next five years," Senator Sam Nunn said recently. "so it seems to me we had better go back to the drawing board on strategy." Meanwhile, the Assistant Republican leader in the Senate, Ted Stevens, said he was seriously considering proposing a bill to withdraw some of the 375,000 U.S. troops in Europe.

Mr. Stevens and some other legislators are concerned not only about military costs but also over continuing economic ties between Western Europe and the Soviet Union.

They sympathise with the idea of a new global strategy under which the U.S. would regard itself as an island nation and concentrate on building its sea power.

Land of the rising Sony

By Yuko Nakamikado

Reuter

TOKYO — Japan is launching a pair of diplomatic missions to the United States and Western Europe in a race to head off threats of a world trade war.

Foreign minister Yoshio Sakurachi makes his diplomatic debut abroad with a five-day visit to Washington starting Saturday while special trade representative Masumi Esaki is on a two-week tour of West European capitals.

But officials said the two leading diplomats would be unlikely to offer any more than vague assurances over trade.

In the recent tradition of Japanese Foreign Ministers, Mr. Sakurachi has been assigned the difficult task of diverting U.S. concern from the contentious issue of trade to the broader aspects of U.S.-Japanese relations.

Government officials describe the foreign minister's trip as an attempt "to forge a new political climate," but admit he will not be able to avoid the trade issue.

Complaints about Japanese trading practices have reached a feverish pitch, with the EEC's Chief Negotiator, Sir Roy Denman, saying recently that the dangers of a trade war are more serious than at any time since the end of World War II.

Japanese Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki has pledged to put forward a package of proposals to defuse the tense trade disputes before major non-communist industrial powers hold their annual economic summit meeting in France in June. Officials said the proposals would not take full form until after Mr. Esaki's return from Europe towards the end of March.

An attempt by Japan in January to cool tempers by dismantling 67 non-tariff barriers to imports did little to meet Western complaints that Japan unfairly shields its big home market from foreign competition. One U.S. businessman here said the move was or could be useful to foreigners trying to penetrate the Japanese market in only about 20 per cent of cases where barriers were dismantled.

A less charitable West European diplomat condemned Tokyo for overruling the package as a major step forward, noting that even Japanese officials conceded it would do little to dent the trade imbalance.

According to its own figures, Japan had a \$13.4 billion trade surplus with the United States last year and a surplus of \$10.3 billion with the 10-nation European Economic Community (EEC).

Statistics compiled by Washington, however, put the surplus at \$18 billion Brussels has yet to compile its own statistics for 1981.

In attempts to head off such moves, the Japanese government has stressed to the West, in particular to its main ally, the United States, that Japan is part of the Western world and that trade alone should not be allowed to dominate relations.

LETTERS

To the Editor

Once again, with much sadness, I must write and protest against the use of strichine poisoned meat, set down by the Municipality of Amman for the elimination of stray dogs in the Capital without adequate warning to the owners of pet dogs.

This morning, for the second time in two years, I witnessed the excruciatingly painful death of my three dogs who had found and eaten a poisoned piece of meat near the house. My dogs were not only a useful deterrent against burglars in our area but the dear friends of my children, to whom I had to break the sad news.

Last year I wrote after the death of one of our animals in this same manner and I am sure the well-meaning Municipality and their team of stray-dog-killers, headed, strangely enough by a well-known local veterinary surgeon, could proceed in a safer and more practical way.

Huzaima Ghazi Rakat

satisfied diplomatic niceties at the time, allowing Peking and Washington to get on with the job of building a relationship, and eventually to normalise diplomatic links in 1978.

However, before Congress would endorse Mr. Carter's decision to establish full diplomatic links, it passed legislation known as the Taiwan Relations Act which encouraged a wide range of bilateral contacts between the U.S. and Taiwan short of exchanging Ambassadors. Peking finds the act obnoxious, claiming it contradicts the spirit of the Shanghai Communiqué.

Richard Nixon was expected to visit China in connection with anniversary celebrations, but is now not coming. Chinese and American officials here are evasive about whether Mr. Nixon was asked, whether he accepted, whether an invitation was extended and then withdrawn, or whether the Reagan administration politely told the former president this was an inopportune moment to visit Peking.

China's paramount leader, party Vice-Chairman Deng Xiaoping, who has done more than anyone else over the past five years to push Sino-U.S. relations into new areas of co-operation, recently gave what is almost certainly the definitive Chinese view of the present state of the relationship.

"Sino-American relations are not good," Mr. Deng told an American visitor, adding that Washington was "wrong" if it thought China needed the U.S. and was afraid to face the Soviet Union alone. The 77-year-old Mr. Deng, a close associate of the late Chou En-Lai, whose hand John Foster Dulles once refused to shake, is said to have warned that China is "not afraid to be isolated a second time by the U.S."

The reason for the chill in relations is, of course, Taiwan. In the rather loose wording of the Shanghai Communiqué, Taiwan was recognised as part of China. This

is apparently antipathetic to Peking, has almost certainly made life more difficult for Mr. Deng. The party Vice-Chairman is not pleased. Positions on the Chinese side have, therefore, been allowed to harden, and the process has been aggravated by equivocation by the Reagan administration.

The issue now is what level of arms sales the Chinese are prepared to tolerate before carrying out their threat to downgrade relations.

China has offered to negotiate an end to the sales. The Americans have not responded publicly, except to say that sensitive discussions between the two countries are continuing. Mixed up in this are apparently reasonable proposals from Peking on discussions aimed at the reunification of Taiwan and the mainland.

— Financial Times news feature

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Sino-U.S. relations deteriorating

Tony Walker looks at the state of relations between China and the United States ten years after President Richard Nixon and Premier Chou En-Lai initialed the Shanghai Communiqué.

PEKING: Ten years ago President Richard Nixon, not yet embroiled in the horrors of Watergate, signed an agreement in Shanghai with the then Chinese Premier, Chou En-Lai, which was to put an end to more than a quarter of a century of bitterness and hatred between the world's most powerful nation and its most populous communist power.

The initialising of the Shanghai Communiqué was perhaps the high-point of the Nixon presidency. A conservative president had done what some of his more liberal predecessors had been unable or unwilling to do.

The Shanghai Communiqué promised at the very least the beginning of a civilised relationship between a superpower and a would-be superpower only just emerging from a long period of isolation caused by a 10-year internal crisis and by the cold war attitudes of conservative officials in the West.

In the decade since February 28, 1972, the Sino-U.S. relationship has developed in a series of fits and starts to the point where trade is measured in billions of U.S. dollars, where there are almost daily official contacts between the governments of the two countries, where Peking and Washington often agree on global strategic aims and where American cultural influence is making a strong impact on the lives of urban Chinese just as the Russians did in the 1950s.

But for all that, something is wrong. A distinct chill has entered

SPORTS

President of AFC rules out African World Cup boycott

TRIPOLI, Libya (R) — Ydnekatchew Tessema, Ethiopian President of the African Football Confederation (AFC), has ruled out an African boycott of the World Cup soccer finals in Spain despite participation of New Zealand.

He told a press conference here Thursday night he was not aware of any request from the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa for a boycott by the African finalists, Algeria and Cameroun, to protest against the 1981 South African rugby union tour of New Zealand. Such an idea, he said, "would be preposterous."

"First of all, Africa's rep-

resentatives in Spain are not in the same preliminary group as New Zealand and there is no chance that they or New Zealand will get to the second elimination stage, which means they will not meet at all," Tessema said.

"It would make some sense if Africa boycotted a major track-and-field meeting, since the continent produces some of the world's best athletes. But we would become a laughing stock if we tried it at a soccer event where our presence is of little consequence."

"The other participants would be all too happy at our absence from the World Cup," he said.

Pakistan upholds supremacy in men's world hockey

KARACHI (R) — Pakistan easily upheld their supremacy in men's world hockey by beating India, the Olympic Champions, 4-0 to win the first Asian Cup tournament here Friday.

Pakistan, the World Cup hol-

Spurs keep alive hopes of winning 3 major trophies

LONDON (R) — Tottenham's brave second-half fightback against Eintracht Frankfurt in West Germany on Wednesday could be the spark to rekindle their challenge for the English first division soccer title Saturday.

The Londoners, beaten by Liverpool in the League Cup final at Wembley last Saturday, looked destined for a second disappointment when they conceded two early goals in Frankfurt, the thereby losing their first-leg lead.

But a sweetly-struck shot from Glenn Hoddle after the interval took Tottenham into the semi-finals of the European Cup.

International hockey tournament,

finished third by beating Singapore 2-0 with second-half goals from Guo Xudong and Su Ying.

Singapore came sixth followed by Sri Lanka.

Malaysia beat Bangladesh 4-1 (halftime 1-1) to take fourth place. Their scorers were Abdul Rahim, M. Shuretharan, Colin St. Maria and Kevin Nunis. Abdul Malik Chunnun scored for Ban-

gladesh.

China, playing in their first int-

ernational hockey tournament, kept alive their hopes of three major trophies this season.

But Tottenham, who are also in the semifinals of the English F.A. Cup, will have to take on visiting Southampton, the League leaders, without Argentine midfielder Osvaldo Ardiles and striker Garth Crooks.

Crooks missed the Cup-Winners' tie against Eintracht due to injury while Ardiles was substituted soon after the start.

Tottenham are in eighth place at present, but a victory over Southampton would leave them just six points behind the leaders with seven games in hand — a possible 21 points this season.

Second-placed Swansea, two points behind Southampton but with two games in hand, travel to struggling Wolverhampton without Welsh international Jeremy Charles.

Charles, nephew of the great John Charles who played for Juventus of Italy in the late 1950's, is out of action after a cartilage operation.

His place will probably go to former England and Everton striker Bob Latchford.

Cardona will not get beyond the seventh round," Avelar's tra-

iner, Angel Casillas, said. "We know that Cardona has quick hands and can box but his legs are not too fast and this will allow Tony to hit him hard."

Avelar became champion last April by beating Shoji Oguma in Japan. He has made one successful defence.

Cardona, a defensive boxer, has won 23 of his 25 fights which is a better record than Avelar's 28 wins and seven defeats.

Elton John helps New Zealand World Cup side

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (A.P.) — English pop star Elton John, who is also chairman of the English second division side Watford, has come to the aid of the New Zealand World Cup squad by arranging for his club to tour New Zealand.

John, who was in New Zealand for a concert tour, was approached by New Zealand World Cup manager John Adshead.

Adshead was looking for top-class opponents for the final and vital part of his team's preparation for the June competition in Spain.

"I was only too glad to help," said John.

Elton John called England and Watford will now play three matches in New Zealand, May 22, and 23.

An Irish team is also due to arrive in New Zealand in early May for some training matches against the squad, known as the Kiwis after the New Zealand flightless bird.

Earlier plans to bring the English first division side Manchester City to New Zealand have fallen through because of what soccer officials called "unreasonable financial demands."

Mexican Avelar to defend WBC title

TAMPICO, Mexico (R) — Antonio Avelar of Mexico finally defended his World Boxing Council (WBC) flyweight title against Colombia's Prudencio Cardona here Saturday after three postponements.

Avelar, 23, says he is fully recovered from a hand injury and influenza and is confident that his youth and punching power will prove too much for the 30-year-old challenger.

"Cardona will not get beyond the seventh round," Avelar's tra-

iner, Angel Casillas, said. "We know that Cardona has quick hands and can box but his legs are not too fast and this will allow Tony to hit him hard."

Avelar became champion last April by beating Shoji Oguma in Japan. He has made one successful defence.

Cardona, a defensive boxer, has won 23 of his 25 fights which is a better record than Avelar's 28 wins and seven defeats.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN

© 1981 by Chicago Tribune

Q.—There is great disagreement in our Sunday night game about a fairly common situation. Suppose the auction starts:

North East South
1 ♠ Double?

Which action by South is the stronger bid—two spades or three spades? There is a gourmet dinner riding on your answer.—J.L. Richards, Nashville, Tenn.

(This question has been awarded the weekly prize.)

A.—Am I invited if I give the right answer?

Neither bid is particularly strong, since both imply the inability to make a redouble, showing at least 10 points. The difference between the two actions is not so much one of strength as of direction.

The modern trend is to treat a single raise as if there had been no double. Therefore, it shows about 6-9 points and some defensive values. A jump raise to three spades tends to have less in the way of defense but more in terms of distribution. Consider these two hands:

a) ♠ Kxxx b) ♠ Kxxx
 ♥ xx ♥ x
 ♦ xxxx ♦ Qxxx
 ♣ Ax ♣ Jxx

In support of spades, both hands are worth about the same in terms of point count. However, with hand a) you

should raise only to two spades because your hand is suited as much to defense as it is to offense. Had there been no intervening double, you would have bid two spades, and you should take the same action after the takeout double.

Hand b) is considerably different. It is much better suited to offense than defense because it is weaker in quick tricks but has an extra ruffing value in the form of a singleton. You should raise to three spades, partly as an attempt to keep the opponents out of the auction.

Q.—I noticed that you covered the recent world team championships in Port Chester, N.Y. In your opinion, who were the best U.S. pairs in both the Open and the Women's events?—R.C., White Plains, N.Y.

A.—If you followed our daily coverage of the tournament, you noticed that I was not present but that a member of our staff was there. Therefore, my remarks are based on hearsay.

The best single 16-board session in the final apparently was turned in by Bobby Levin of Miami Beach and John Solodar of New York, who are not even a regular partnership. And the British ladies, who won the Venice Trophy, felt that Carol Sanders of Nashville, Tenn., and Betty Ann Kennedy of Shreveport, La., played very well against them.

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WORLD

Peking: Brezhnev offers nothing new

Genscher demands complete removal of Soviet missiles

BONN (Agencies) — West Germany told the Soviet Union on Friday that only the complete removal of Soviet medium-range nuclear missiles could prevent the deployment of similar U.S. missiles in West Germany next year.

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher underlined Bonn's stance at a meeting with Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Semenov, who gave him a text of President Leonid Brezhnev's declaration on nuclear arms this week.

A Foreign Ministry statement said Mr. Genscher warned the Soviet envoy that Moscow would be making a grave error if it thought Bonn would not be able to station the U.S. cruise and Pershing-II missiles from late 1983 if U.S.-Soviet arms control talks failed to produce results.

Moscow has been giving strong encouragement to West Germans campaigning to stop the missile deployment here.

West German officials interpreted Mr. Brezhnev's announcement this week of a unilateral freeze on the stationing of SS-20 missiles west of the Urals as being aimed more at the peace movement than at Western governments.

Mr. Genscher said Bonn always examined Soviet disarmament proposals closely. But he added

Britain, Vatican resume full diplomatic relations

LONDON (R) — Britain and the Vatican resumed full diplomatic relations Thursday after a break of more than four centuries.

Pope John Paul's London representative, Swiss-born Archbishop Bruno Heim, 70, became papal nuncio, the equivalent of an ambassador, by presenting his credentials to Queen Elizabeth at Buckingham Palace.

The Holy See and the British government agreed in January to establish full diplomatic relations. Pope John Paul will set the seal on the gradual healing of the historic breach when he visits Britain in May.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

U.S. to return Nazi art works to Bonn

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has authorised the return to West Germany of thousands of Nazi art works seized by the U.S. army at the end of World War Two. The army possesses more than 6,000 works of art commissioned by Adolf Hitler to glorify the Nazi cause and war effort. West German interest was aroused after television programmes on the collection and a tentative request was made to the United States in 1977. Many of the paintings and drawings hang in the Defence Department, while others have been kept in store.

Haitian rebels arrested in Venezuela

CARACAS (R) — Venezuelan security forces have seized a guerrilla camp near San Carlos, 100 kilometres south-east of here and arrested 15 Haitians planning to overthrow Haitian President Jean Claude Duvalier, interior ministry sources said Thursday. The operation was carried out on Tuesday by intelligence and security agents and the 15 Haitians surrendered without resistance, the sources said. Machine-guns, rifles and food were found in the camp, they added. Sixteen men, six of them Haitians, were arrested on Tuesday night preparing to sail from Miami in an alleged attempt to invade Haiti, but the Venezuelan sources could not say if the two groups were connected.

Bombs damage Americans' cars in Greece

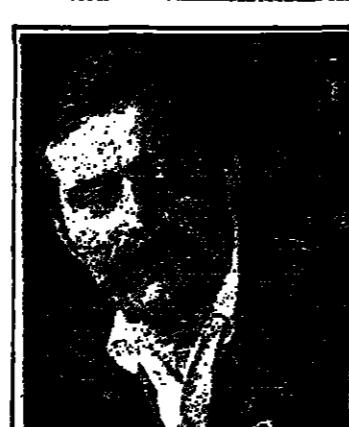
SALONICA, Greece (R) — Time bombs exploded at dawn Friday under two parked cars belonging to Americans working at the U.S. military base at Horahtsi near Salonica, a police spokesman said. The cars, parked in one of Salonica's main streets, were damaged but there were no casualties, the spokesman said. No one has yet claimed responsibility for the blasts, the latest in a series of bomb explosions in Athens and Greek provincial towns in recent weeks.

2nd Indian state placed under Delhi rule

NEW DELHI (A.P.) — President Neelam Sanjiva Reddy on Friday formally placed the troubled northeastern state of Assam under direct control of the central government following the resignation of its cabinet and dissolution of its state assembly. It was the second time this week that a state government led by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Congress Party collapsed through political defections. The other was in the southern state of Kerala. In both cases, opposition parties criticised the takeovers, claiming they had sufficient support in their respective assemblies to form new coalition governments. With two states now under presidential rule, Mrs. Gandhi's Congress party controls 16 states and opposition parties control four. New state assembly elections will be scheduled later in Assam and Kerala.

Guard who stole \$1.85m sentenced

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — A security guard who stole \$1.85 million from his armoured van and spent it on a round-the-world spree was jailed Thursday for 15 years. George Bosque, 26, pleaded guilty last month to the robbery at San Francisco airport in August 1980. He was arrested in San Francisco last November.



Lech Walesa

Walesa lives in 'golden cage'

GENEVA (R) — Lech Walesa's famous drooping moustache is lost in a full beard and he has gained weight but he is living in comfort, according to a Polish relief worker permitted to visit the Solidarity leader at a detention centre south of Warsaw.

Zdzislaw Pregowski, a Polish architect living in Switzerland since 1941, was the first person other than Polish churchmen to visit Mr. Walesa since he was detained after the military takeover on Dec. 13.

He told Reuters he met the free trade union leader at a villa in Otwock, a spa south of Warsaw, on March 10 while visiting Poland with aid workers.

"The moustache is now part of a full beard and he has gained weight because he has less opportunity for exercise," the head of the private charity "Poland in Need" said by telephone from his office in Winterthur, northern Switzerland.

"But when I arrived he greeted me with the words 'as you see, I'm living in a golden cage,'" said Mr. Pregowski. He said Mr. Walesa had several rooms at his disposal but six guards were posted outside.

Mr. Pregowski said he first met Mr. Walesa two years ago and organised several of his trips, including a flight over Mont Blanc, Europe's highest mountain, during the trade union leader's visit to Switzerland last year.

Mr. Pregowski said he hoped to attend the baptism of Mr. Walesa's daughter Maria Victoria in Gdańsk this weekend.

There is still no indication whether Mr. Walesa himself will be allowed to attend the Christening.

Since 1938 the Pope has been represented in London by an apostolic delegate and Britain by a diplomat below the rank of ambassador at the Vatican. Sir Mark Heath is now Britain's ambassador to the Holy See.

Relations were ruptured in 1534, when King Henry VIII broke with Rome because it refused to sanction his divorce from Catherine of Aragon, and they were briefly resumed during the brief reign of their Catholic daughter Queen Mary. The growing strength of Protestantism helped to sustain the breach.

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American torches Japanese gangster's property

KYOTO, Japan (A.P.) — An American surrendered Friday and admitted trying to set fire to the office and home of a Kyoto gangster he claimed swindled \$2.9 million worth of land from a Japanese friend, police reported.

Police said David Kubiaik, 36, of Kennebunk, Maine, would be charged with attempted arson for the attacks early Tuesday on the property of 47-year-old Tsutomu Yamada, reputed chief of the Iroha underworld gang.

The police said Mr. Kubiaik admitted setting fire to two kerosene-doused garbage cans outside Mr. Yamada's office and lighting a bundle of straw outside

Rabat pursues solution for W. Sahara

RABAT (R) — Morocco launched an initiative Friday to secure progress by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) towards a settlement of the war in the Western Sahara.

The territory, ruled by Morocco, is claimed by guerrillas of the Polisario Front who are fighting with Algerian support to establish a "Saharan Arab Democratic Republic."

The war has split the OAU and prompted walkouts by a number of countries at two recent meetings of the organisation.

On the eve of his mission, the Moroccan news agency (MAP)

said Arab, African and West European ambassadors were summoned to the foreign ministry to be told that Rabat is concerned by the rift in OAU ranks.

The Saharan republic is recognised by 26 of the 50 OAU states but is not supposed to become a full member until after the referendum has been held.

The Moroccan government believes that giving it earlier re-instatement would prejudice the referendum.

Morocco led 18 other countries

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Bahraini premier says Egypt welcome back to Arab fold

PARIS (R) — Bahrain's Prime Minister Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa said in an interview Thursday that Egypt would be welcomed back in the Arab fold with open arms. "Egypt will be able to return to the Arab family when it deems opportune and will be received with open arms," he told the French newspaper *le Monde* in an interview published Thursday. Sheikh Khalifa paid tribute to the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat for having "sincerely served Egypt and the Arab World" without ever asking anything in exchange. "Egypt's new president Hosni Mubarak is faithfully following Sadat's policy," he said. Sheikh Khalifa added: "Many governments in the area wish Egypt's return to the Arab League without any unrealistic and humiliating conditions."

Australian choppers arrive in Israel

TEL AVIV (A.P.) — An Australian navy transport ship arrived Friday with its cargo of eight helicopters for the multinational peacekeeping force that is to patrol the Sinai Desert after Israel's final pullback next month. The *HMAS Tobruk* steamed into Israel's southern Mediterranean port after a 28-day voyage from Weston, in western Australia, and was greeted by the Australian ambassador, David Goss. On Wednesday, 670 American paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne Division arrived at their incomplete base in Sharm Al Sheikh at the tip of the Sinai Peninsula. The Americans make up the major part of the 11-nation peacekeeping force, which includes troops from Colombia and Fiji and support units from Australia, New Zealand, France, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Britain and Uruguay. The force numbers about 2,650 troops.

Rome overrides objections to Sinai force role

ROME (A.P.) — The Senate foreign and defence committee overrode Communist objections to approve a cabinet decision to send three minesweepers with 90 men as Italy's contingent to the Sinai peacekeeping force. The naval force under the command of Cmdr. Angelo Minissi is now scheduled to leave for the Middle East Saturday. All Communist members on the committee voted out as the legislators of five government parties adopted a resolution endorsing the government decision.

60-kg car bomb defused in Beirut

BEIRUT (A.P.) — A car laden with 60 kilograms of explosives was discovered and defused outside a building housing the Egyptian embassy in West Beirut before it was set to detonate, police sources said on Friday. A car bomb explosion outside the same building killed three persons and wounded 10 others last Tuesday. A day earlier another car bomb had exploded in the nearby French cultural centre wounding 13 people. The Egyptian embassy has become a special affairs section for Egyptian affairs operated by the French embassy since the rupture of relations between Lebanon and Egypt after Egyptian President Anwar Sadat signed the 1979 treaty with Israel.

Israeli troops arrest squatters

TEL AVIV (A.P.) — Israeli soldiers arrested six illegal squatters and dragged 35 youths out of a grove in northern Sinai Friday as the government continued its struggle with ultra-nationalists opposed to Israel's withdrawal from the area, the military said. It was the third time Israeli troops have moved into the illegal settlement called Haifa Adar 20 kilometres south of Yamit to remove squatters who are trying to prevent Israel from returning to Egypt the area it occupied in the 1967 Middle East war.

U.S.-Iran claims tribunal kicks off

By Peter Millership
Reuters

THE HAGUE — A unique international tribunal, expected to make legal history by settling billions of dollars of claims between the United States and Iran, has got off to a slow and sometimes acrimonious start.

In the tribunal's temporary home in the gilt and marble chambers of the Peace Palace, clerks are trying to sort out a mountain of claims ranging from compensation for lost wallets to alleged breach of multi-million dollar oil contracts.

An American friend of Mr. Kubiaik who asked not to be named said he frequently visited police headquarters to seek action against Mr. Yamada and once met the gangster to ask him to return the land. She said the police were uncooperative.

Mr. Yamada had made no

comment and police say they are not investigating the accusations.

Mr. Kubiaik, organiser of an India-Japan crafts programme, surrendered to publicise the plight of Mr. Yamada's victims, the American's lawyer Nobuyuki Ono said.

An American friend of Mr. Kubiaik who asked not to be named said he frequently visited police headquarters to seek action against Mr. Yamada and once met the gangster to ask him to return the land. She said the police were uncooperative.

Their publicly stated view is that Britain's relations with India are better than they have been for a long time, and that personal relationships between the two prime ministers is good.

But the officials admit there will be quite a heavy list of things on which they differ.

Issues are scarce but any compromise will be a major achievement, lawyers say.

Asghar Kashan, who polices the Algiers agreement for Iran, says the U.S. has thwarted Iranian attempts to pay more than \$1 billion to U.S. banks and firms in private settlements.

Mr. Rovine says he is aware of several agreements which Iran has commented on by the tribunal but refuses to comment on any of Mr. Kashan's statements.

Mr. Kashan says the U.S. has violated the Algiers agreement on 10 points which he will bring up before the tribunal. Several concerns about the late Shah and his family.

Iran's biggest single claim is for \$1.2 billion of undelivered military equipment.

Among the U.S. industrial heavyweights who were big losers as a result of the Iranian revolution are Xerox, General Motors, General Telephone and Electronics and American Telephone and Telegraph.

Claims face long drawn-out process

Crowds of lawyers showered claims on the tribunal in the days leading up to the submission deadline, Jan. 19, exactly a year after the hostages left Iran.

It may be years before details of hearings or awards will be made public and tribunal Secretary-General Christopher Pinto said some cases relating to national security or scientific secrets would never be released.

Mr. Kashan told Reuters that Iran intended to file a separate claim for an unspecified figure against the U.S. for helping the Shah to power 25 years ago.

The tribunal is to use modified United Nations rules on world-trade to settle claims.

Each case will be heard by a three-judge panel chaired by a third country judge. Three chambers will operate but a chamber may relinquish jurisdiction in favour of a plenary tribunal.

One lawyer said a great onus would be placed on third country judges since U.S. and Iranian judges would be under great pressure to represent their countries' interests.

Already Iran has said Swedish Judge Nils Mangard made disparaging remarks about the Iranian legal system and has demanded his removal.

As the tribunal's teething troubles continue, U.S. businessmen are becoming anxious that the claims process is speeded up. They fear Iran's economy may become so weak due to the war with Iraq and falling oil prices that it will be unable to pay agreed awards.

Impact on world trade and economy

U.S. government agent Arthur Rovine says the tribunal's rulings will make a major impact on world trade and investment.

The U.S. has claimed around \$10 billion through the tribunal while Iran has made some \$35 billion of claims, informed sources say.

The two bank accounts to settle claims were filled with Iranian funds from the U.S. which were unfrozen following the release of the U.S. hostages.

One account of \$1 billion is held by a Dutch central bank subsidiary and is to pay claims settled by the tribunal. The other with \$1.4 billion is being held by the Bank of England to pay Iranian banking debts.

As claims are met from the Dutch account, Iran is committed to pay more money into it to keep it above \$500 million.

The tribunal meets on Monday to try to resolve several disagreements over this account, including who will receive interest from it and whether Iran can use money from the account to pay private settlements it may make with claimants.

Complex legalities and scarce compromises

Sessions are closed and details of the complex legal and banking